THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, June 8, 1801.

Topographical Sketch of the Iſland of St. Chriſtophers.

By Dr. Chiſholm, Inſpector-General of the Ordnance Medical Department in the Weſt Indies.

THE atmoſphere of this beautiful iſland has been, from its firſt ſettlement as an European colony in 1625, as much famed for its ſalubrity, as the manners of its inhabitants have been for their urbanity; and the diſtinguiſhing appellation "ile douce" (Du Tertre, tom. ii. p. 6) is as applicable to both now as it was in 1640. Having been the mother colony of the Weſt India ſettlements, a character was impreſſed on it, by the French and Engliſh gentlemen who conducted the original adventurers, which it ſtill retains. About the middle of the laſt century, the manners of the different French colonies, gave riſe to a proverbial diſtinction highly honourable to the inhabitants of St. Chriſtopher's. It was remarked, that "la nobleſſe etoit a Saint Chriſtophe, les bourgeois a la Guadaloupe, les ſoldats a la Martinique, et les payſans a la Grenade." (Hiſt. Gen. des Voyages, tom. lix. p. 229).

The general aſpect of the iſland is extremely beautiful. Mount Miſery, occupying the body of the iſland in the north-weſt, gradually declines into ſmaller hills, and is at length loſt in the plain of Baſſeterre in the ſouth. Between the foot of this mountain and the ſea, a narrow gently inclining plain, every where environs it, whoſe fertility is only equalled by its delightful diſtribution, and its uncommon ſalubrity. Mount Miſery, 3711 feet in perpendicular height, is a volcanic mountain finely variegated by wood, paſture, and huge granite cliffs, one of which groteſquely diſpoſed on the ſummit, and forming one ſide of the moſt perfect crater I have met with in the Weſt India

iſlands, gave riſe, M. Rochefort ſays, to the name St. Chriſtopher's. (Hiſt. Nat. et Moraſe des Iles Ant. p. 30).

The ſouthern extremity of the iſland is a peninſula of barren ridges, connected with the main land by a low iſthmus, and exhibiting a rude uncultivated maſs, enhances the beauty of the latter. St. Chriſtopher's every where preſents the moſt pleaſing ſcenery; but the lee ſide, by a bolder diſpoſition of mountain, gully, rock, wood, and cultivated ſurface, poſſeſſes more picturesque beauty. Were I to ſelect where the ſcenes are ſo generally intereſting, I would point out the magnificent mountainous landſcape at Old Road; and the leſs elevated but more varied beauties of Sandy Point. Indeed the whole of the country between Old Road and the weſtern extremity, by poſſeſſing the ſingular, inſulated, heterogeneous, truncated maſs called Brimſtone Hill, ſituated at the baſe of Mount Miſery, where it exhibits its moſt romantic aſpect, is almoſt unique.

St. Chriſtopher's, where its ſurface admits cultivation, is a perfect garden; and we cannot be aſtoniſhed at its being ſo, when we conſider that at all times the population has been very conſiderable. In the year 1658, the French diviſion alone, comprehending the ſouth-eaſt and north-weſt extremities, and conſequently the two principal towns, Baſſeterre and Sandy Point, could ſend forth 100,000 fighting men (Hiſt. Nat. and Mor.): and although, when it fell into the excluſive poſſeſſion of the Engliſh, in 1713, the number of its inhabitants was very conſiderably diminiſhed; yet an enterprizing ſpirit, encouraged by the facility with which cultivation could be carried on, and the aſtoniſhing fertility of the ſoil, amply compenſated, and not a practicable ſpot was left neglected. Population is at preſent rather on the decline, not from any change in the ſoil or climate, but from the fluctuating nature of commerce, the annihilation of the adjacent neutral port of St. Euſtatius, and the number of abſentees.

Every circumſtance contributes to the maintenance of health in St. Chriſtopher's; a ſoil compoſed of ſand and vegetable mould inſtantly abſorbs moiſture; the ſurface, either precipitous, or gently declivitous, permits not the accumulation and ſtagnation of water; the conſequent abſence of ſwamps; and a ſingular purity of atmoſphere. The only exception is perceived to the ſouth-eaſt of Baſſeterre, where a conſiderable tract of marſh has moſt unpardonably been left undrained; and annually, during the hot months, produces dangerous fevers of the remittent and intermittent kind. One unpleaſant deficiency, however, is perceived: the only ſtreams, deſerving the name of rivulet, are found at Old Road, and the diſtrict of Cayon. Springs riſing in ſome parts of Mount Miſery, and the ridges which branch from it towards Baſſeterre, are conducted to the adjoining plantations by pipes; but as the water has a ſtrong ſa-

line

line impregnation, its uſe is attended with no ſmall inconvenience to thoſe not always in the habit of drinking it. A long tract of dry weather is conſequently a ſource of infinite diſtreſs, as has been unhappily experienced during the two or three laſt years.

Baſſeterre and Brimſtone Hill are the poſts occupied by the troops garriſoning St. Chriſtopher's. Were the ſource of miaſma removed from the neighbourhood of the former, a healthy conſtitution of its atmoſphere would be the neceſſary conſequence; for the town ſtands on ſand, and is ſufficiently perflated by the trade wind which blows over the lower branches of Mount Miſery ſituated behind it. The hiſtory of Veſuvius and Etna, as given by their modern celebrated explorers, Sir. W. Hamilton, M. Ferber, Mr. Brydone, Spalanzanni, &c. may juſtly give cauſe of apprehenſion to the inhabitants of the environs of Mount Miſery, as well as to thoſe of the other volcanic iſlands: for as a period of ſeveral hundred years elapſed from the earlieſt tradition of an irruption of the former, till the famed one which deprived the elder Pliny of his life; and from this to the ſecond on record: and as long intervals occurred between the eruptions of the latter, although from the veſtiges of thoſe which happened beyond the record of hiſtory, had induced the natural hiſtorian of Etna to calculate the exiſtence of the world from a wonderful antiquity, (Brydone, let. vii.) may not the ſeemingly extinguiſhed volcanoes of the weſtern Archipelago, when leaſt feared, ſuddenly burſt their preſent bounds, and cover their vicinity with horror and deſtruction? Montſerrat, I am told, exhibited an alarming ſpecimen about the beginning of this century, of what may be expected; Guadaloupe has very recently been diſtinguiſhed by the activity of its apparently extinguiſhed volcano (Rapport fait aux Citoyens Victor Hugues et Lebas ſur la ſituation du volcan du Guadaloupe, 1798); and the inceſſant earthquakes which terrified and endangered the lives of the inhabitants of St. Chriſtopher's, during the whole of the year 1797, give ſolidity to apprehenſion. Heaven avert the evil! The form and ſtructure of Brimſtone Hill ſanction the opinion however. In a curious map of this iſland prefixed to Du Tertre's Hiſtoire Generale, and publiſhed in 1642, this hill is diſtinguiſhed by the name of "Mine de Souffre." It is nearly a truncated cone, terminating in two peaks, compoſed of the moſt ſingular congeries of different bodies, we can well imagine. Volcanic aſhes, conſolidated by time into an immenſe calcareous maſs, form the baſis of this hill; but there are innumerable ſtrata of ſhells, of gravel, of pyrites, of lava, of pumice ſtone, interpoſed, and together with immenſe blocks of blue granite, and of argillaceous rock, evidently prove its volcanic nature and origin: add to theſe the vicinity of the perfect crater of Mount Miſery, but more eſpecially the exudation of ſulphur from the

hill itſelf, as well as the ſulphureous ſpiracula in thoſe places where deep excavations have been made for the foundations of buildings, together with the exceſſive heat of thoſe ſpots where ſpiracles have been diſcovered, would be deciſive. Its poſition, with reſpect to the adjacent heights, has ſecured to it a preference as a poſt of defence; and it conſtitutes the principal fortreſs of the iſland. It is dry and hot, notwithſtanding the perflation of the trade wind; but it is alſo remarkably healthy, for the 9th regiment, ſtationed on it from the year 1786 till the year 1794, loſt no more than three men before the malignant peſtilential fever appeared among them in July, 1793.

In an iſland ſo remarkable for the purity of its atmoſphere, diſeaſes of importance proceeding from endemic cauſes, are not to be looked for. The yellow remittent fever ſeldom appears any where but in Baſſeterre, during July, Auguſt, and September; and then its violence is comparatively trifling. Simple remittents ſometimes appear during the ſame months; but intermittents, and diſeaſes depending on topical inflammation, ſuch as hepatitis, are never met with.

Heads of the Bill for Encloſure of Waſte Lands, as introduced in the Houſe of Peers, on Friday, May 22, 1801, by Lord Carrington.

A Board, conſiſting of five commiſſioners, to be appointed by his Majeſty, for regulating and confirming the encloſure of waſte and unproductive lands, without the neceſſity of an application to Parliament: the bill not to affect lands which have been encloſed by Act of Parliament, nor to prevent further applications to Parliament for ſimilar purpoſes. The board to form general regulations and conſtitutions relating to incloſures, ſubject to the approbation and allowance of the Chancellor and Chief Juſtices of the law courts, and Maſter of the Rolls, after which ſuch regulations, &c. ſhall be binding and concluſive; to be printed and ſent to the Clerks of the Peace of each county, and to be publiſhed therein as the juſtices in quarter ſeſſions may direct.

The board, annually, to lay before Parliament copies of their rules and regulations, and to ſit daily, Sundays and Good Fridays only excepted. Commiſſioners of encloſures are to be nominated for each county, one half to be returned by the grand jury, the other by the juſtices at ſeſſions; and in default thereof, the board to nominate them. On application to the board for any encloſure, they ſhall nominate one of each ſet of county commiſſioners, to aſcertain whether the majority of rights are deſirous of ſuch encloſure; and if ſo, to call a meeting of the perſons intereſted, to agree upon a plan, and then appoint a

ſecond

ſecond meeting for hearing and determining upon objections, and appointing three Commiſſioners, or one, as the parties may agree, to act with the two appointed by the Board of Commiſſioners of the ſaid encloſure; the two Board Commiſſioners to report, on oath, to ſaid Board, the proceedings, and return the previous agreement between the parties. The Board, if they approve of the report, are to iſſue the commiſſion for carrying the encloſure into execution. Eccleſiaſtical rectors may accept allotments of waſte lands, as a compenſation for the tithes of the waſte, with the conſent of the patron and ordinary. The Board may reject the encloſures of waſtes, near towns and villages, if they think it conducive to the comfort or convenience of the inhabitants to remain unencloſed. Though the majority of perſons having rights may not concur in an encloſure, the minority may have allotments made them on waſtes, on giving ſecurity for payment of expences, &c.; but theſe allotments are not to be diſcharged of tithes, unleſs it appear to the Board that an adequate compenſation can be made for the ſame, and the conſent of the rector and ordinary be firſt obtained. Acting Commiſſioners to obey all orders of the Board, and on refuſal or neglect to be diſplaced; to ſettle boundaries between adjoining honours and manors claiming right of common on waſtes. Perſons diſſatiſfied with the determination of the Commiſſioners, may appeal to the quarter ſeſſions, or may try the matter by an iſſue at law. Encroachments made upon any waſte lands, for the ſpace of

years and upwards, before date of the commiſſion of encloſures, ſhall be deemed to belong to the perſons in poſſeſſion; but ſhall give no right or title to any allotment of waſte in reſpect thereof. Commiſſioners authoriſed to ſet out and alter roads, drains, &c. but not to divert or alter turnpike roads. In caſes of doubt or difficulty, Commiſſioners to tranſmit ſtatements thereof to the Board, who may either direct a caſe to be drawn for the opinion of the Court of Chancery, or a reference to the Court of Quarter Seſſions, or an iſſue at law. Commiſſioners are not to determine titles, but no ſuits thereon are to impede encloſures; they may fell a part of the waſte to defray expences approved by the Board, and may diſtrain upon perſons having allotments for the ſame. Right of the Crown, the Prince of Wales as Duke of Cornwall, not to be prejudiced without their previous conſent.—Clerks, ſurveyors, &c. to be appointed, with ſalaries, and books regularly kept of all proceedings, under certain penalties.

Sketch of the Life and Writings of Robert Burns.

(*Concluded from Page* 424)

IN 1786, having ſettled with his publiſher at Edinburgh, Burns found himſelf maſter of 500l. He now, therefore, took a farm,

farm, married, and began to puſh forward through life. But his ſocial propenſities drew him aſide from a ſerious application to the purſuits of agriculture—and being ſoon after appointed an exciſeman, an office he had long wiſhed for—he left his farm chiefly to the care of ſervants; a circumſtance which proved by no means favourable to his proſperity. "He might, indeed, (ſays his biographer) ſtill be ſeen in the ſpring directing his plough, in which he excelled, or with a white ſheet, containing his ſeed-corn, ſlung acroſs his ſhoulders, ſtriding with meaſured ſteps along his turned-up furrows, and ſcattering the grain in the earth. But his farm no longer occupied the principal part of his care, or his thoughts. It was not at Elliſland (the name of his farm), that he was now in general to be found. Mounted on horſeback, this high-minded poet was purſuing the defaulters of the revenue among the hills and vales of Nithsdale, his roving eye wandering over the charms of nature, and muttering his *wayward fancies* as he moved along."

About the end of the year 1791 Burns relinquiſhed his farm, and removed to Dumfries, where he ended his days. Here he became much attached to company, and frequently gave himſelf up to intoxication. His ſituation in the exciſe brought him in about ſeventy pounds per annum, and he would ſoon have received further promotion, had he not ſpoken too freely in favour of the French revolution. This diſappointment greatly chagrined his mind, which, together with his free mode of living, haſtened his diſſolution. He, however, was not a republican; and in 1795, appearing in the Dumfries volunteers, he brought forth the following ſpirited verſes, which form a pleaſing ſpecimen of his poetry:

SCENE.—A field of battle—time of day, evening—the wounded and dying of the victorious army are ſuppoſed to join in the following ſong.

"Farewell thou fair day, thou green earth, and ye ſkies,
"Now gay with the bright ſetting ſun;
"Farewell loves and friendſhips, ye dear tender ties,
"Our race of exiſtence is run!

"Thou grim king of terrors, thou life's gloomy foe,
"Go frighten the coward and ſlave;
"Go teach them to tremble, fell tyrant! but know,
"No terrors haſt thou to the brave!

"Thou ſtrik'ſt the dull peaſant, he ſinks in the dark,
"Nor ſaves e'en the wreck of a name;
"Thou ſtrik'ſt the young hero—a glorious mark!
"He falls in the blaze of his fame!

" In the field of proud honour—our ſwords in our hands,
" Our King and our country to ſave,
" While victory ſhines on life's laſt ebbing ſands,
" O! who would not reſt with the brave?"

We ſhall now draw to a concluſion, by an extract taken from his biography, in which his illneſs, death, and interment, are affectingly deſcribed:—" From October, 1795, to the January following, an accidental complaint confined him to the houſe. A few days after he began to go abroad, he dined at a tavern, and returned home about three o'clock in a very cold morning, benumbed and intoxicated. This was followed by an attack of rheumatiſm, which confined him about a week. His appetite began to fail; his hand ſhook, and his voice faltered on any exertion or emotion. His pulſe became weaker and more rapid, and pain in the larger joints, and in the hands and feet, depriving him of the enjoyment of refreſhing ſleep. Too much dejected in his ſpirits, and too well aware of his real ſituation to entertain hopes of his recovery, he was ever muſing on the approaching deſolation of his family, and his ſpirits ſunk into an uniform gloom.

" It was hoped by ſome of his friends, that if he could live through the months of ſpring, the ſucceeding ſeaſon might reſtore him. But they were diſappointed. The genial beam of the ſun infuſed no vigour into his languid frame; the ſummer wind blew upon him, but produced no refreſhment. About the latter end of June he was adviſed to go into the country, and impatient of medical advice, as well as every ſpecies of controul, he determined for himſelf to try the effects of bathing in the ſea. For this purpoſe he took up his reſidence at Brow, in Annandale, about ten miles eaſt of Dumfries, on the ſhore of the Solway-Firth.

" It happened that at that time a lady with whom he had been connected in friendſhip by the ſympathies of kindred genius, was reſiding in the immediate neighbourhood. Being informed of his arrival, ſhe invited him to dinner, and ſent her carriage for him to the cottage where he lodged, as he was unable to walk.—" I was ſtruck," ſays this lady, (in a confidential letter to a friend written ſoon after) " with his appearance on entering the room. The ſtamp of death was impreſſed on his features. He ſeemed already touching the brink of eternity. His firſt ſalutation was, " Well, Madam, have you any commands for the other world?" I replied that it ſeemed a doubtful caſe which of us ſhould be there ſooneſt, and that I hoped he would yet live to write my epitaph. (I was then in a bad ſtate of health.) He looked in my face with an air of great kindneſs, and expreſſed his concern at ſeeing me look ſo ill, with his accuſtomed ſenſibility. At table he ate little or nothing, and he complained

complained of having entirely loſt the tone of his ſtomach. We had a long and ſerious converſation about his preſent ſituation, and the approaching termination of all his earthly proſpects. He ſpoke of his death without any of the oſtentation of philoſophy, but with firmneſs as well as feeling—as an event likely to happen very ſoon, and which gave him concern chiefly from leaving his four children ſo young and unprotected, and his wife in ſo intereſting a ſituation—in hourly expectation of lying in of a fifth. He mentioned with ſeeming pride and ſatisfaction, the promiſing genius of his eldeſt ſon, and the flattering marks of approbation he had received from his teachers, and dwelt particularly on his hopes of that boy's future conduct and merit. His anxiety for his family ſeemed to hang heavy upon him, and the more perhaps from the reflection that he had not done them all the juſtice he was ſo well qualified to do. Paſſing from this ſubject, he ſhewed great concern about the care of his literary fame, and particularly the publication of his poſthumous works. He ſaid he was well aware that his death would occaſion ſome noiſe, and that every ſcrap of his writing would be revived againſt him to the injury of his future reputation: that letters and verſes written with unguarded and improper freedom, and which he earneſtly wiſhed to have buried in oblivion, would be handed about by idle vanity or malevolence, when no dread of his reſentment would reſtrain them, or prevent the cenſures of ſhrill-tongued malice, or the inſidious ſarcaſms of envy, from pouring forth all their venom to blaſt his fame.

" He lamented that he had written many epigrams on perſons againſt whom he entertained no enmity, and whoſe characters he ſhould be ſorry to wound; and many indifferent poetical pieces, which he feared would now, with all their imperfections on their head, be thruſt upon the world. On this account he deeply regretted having deferred to put his papers into a ſtate of arrangement, as he was now quite incapable of the exertion."—The lady goes on to mention many other topics of a private nature on which he ſpoke.—" The converſation," ſhe adds " was kept up with great evenneſs and animation on his ſide. I had ſeldom ſeen his mind greater or more collected. There was frequently a conſiderable degree of vivacity in his ſallies, and they would probably have had a greater ſhare, had not the concern and dejection I could not diſguiſe, damped the ſpirit of pleaſantry he ſeemed not unwilling to indulge.

" We parted about ſun-ſet on the evening of that day, (the 5th of July, 1796); the next day I ſaw him again, and we parted to meet no more!"

" At firſt Burns imagined bathing in the ſea had been of benefit to him: the pains in his limbs were relieved; but this was immediately followed by a new attack of fever. When brought back to his own houſe in Dumfries, on the 18th of July,

he was no longer able to ſtand upright. At this time a tremour pervaded his frame; his tongue was parched, and his mind ſunk into delirium, when not roufed by converſation. On the ſecond and third day the fever increaſed, and his ſtrength diminiſhed. On the fourth, the ſufferings of this great but ill-fated genius were terminated, and a life was cloſed in which virtue and paſſion had been at perpetual variance.

"The death of Burns made a ſtrong and general impreſſion on all who had intereſted themſelves in his character, and eſpecially on the inhabitants of the town and county in which he had ſpent the latter years of his life. Flagrant as his follies and errors had been, they had not deprived him of the reſpect and regard entertained for the extraordinary powers of his genius, and the generous qualities of his heart. The gentlemen-volunteers of Dumfries determined to bury their illuſtrious aſſociate with military honours, and every preparation was made to render this laſt ſervice ſolemn and impreſſive. The fencible infantry of Angusſhire, and the regiments of cavalry of the Cinque Ports, at that time quartered at Dumfries, offered their aſſiſtance on this occaſion; the principal inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood determined to walk in the funeral proceſſion; and a vaſt concourſe of perſons aſſembled, ſome of them from a conſiderable diſtance, to witneſs the obſequies of the Scottiſh bard. On the evening of the 25th of July, the remains of Burns were removed from his houſe to the Town-Hall, and the funeral took place the ſucceeding day. A party of the volunteers, ſelected to perform the military duty in the church-yard, ſtationed themſelves in the front of the proceſſion, with their arms reverſed; the main body of the corps ſurrounded and ſupported the coffin, on which were placed the hat and ſword of their friend and fellow-ſoldier; the numerous body of attendants ranged themſelves in the rear; while the fencible regiments of infantry and cavalry lined the ſtreets from the Town-Hall to the burial-ground in the ſouthern church-yard, a diſtance of more than half a mile. The whole proceſſion moved forward to that ſublime and affecting ſtrain of muſic, the Dead March in Saul; and three vollies fired over his grave, marked the return of Burns to his parent earth! The ſpectacle was in a high degree grand and ſolemn, and accorded with the general ſentiments of ſympathy and ſorrow which the occaſion had called forth."

It is an affecting circumſtance, that, on the morning of the day of her huſband's funeral, Mrs. Burns was undergoing the pains of labour; and that during the ſolemn funeral ſervice of the father the poſthumous ſon of our poet was born. This infant, who received the name of Maxwell, was not deſtined to a long life. He has already become an inhabitant of the ſame grave with his celebrated father.

Such was the end of this great but unfortunate genius, who, had he been placed at an early period in a ſituation ſuitable to his genius and views, might have proved the ornament and bleſſing of his country. In the preſent caſe he holds forth an awful warning to the riſing generation—he ſhews, that talents without temperance and prudence only glare the meteor of an hour, and then are extinguiſhed in utter darkneſs! Burns wanted ſteadineſs in reducing his knowledge to practice—and reſolution to reſiſt the powerful temptations with which he was ſurrounded. Had he poſſeſſed theſe commanding virtues, his name would have gone down with unſullied luſtre to poſterity.

The poet has left behind him a wife and four ſons, who have been liberally aſſiſted by ſubſcriptions. The handſome edition of his works, in four octavo volumes, recently publiſhed, is intended to produce them ſome ſubſtantial advantage. May the benevolent purpoſe be abundantly anſwered! The biography of Burns written by Dr. Currie, and contained in the firſt volume, is replete with entertainment. The ſtyle is elegant, whilſt the ſentiments breathe the moſt refined and honourable ſenſibility. The ſecond volume comprehends the poet's letters, which are highly pleaſing—the third compriſes thoſe poems, chiefly in the Scottiſh dialect, which brought him ſo much celebrity—the fourth, and laſt, includes Miſcellanous Pieces, both in proſe and poetry. Altogether, we may pronounce it the moſt intereſting work that ever engaged our attention.

As the writer of this article is wholly unacquainted with the Scotch dialect, in which moſt of the poems of Burns are written, he cannot offer his own judgement. But he has frequently heard Scotchmen, of genius and learning, ſpeak of them in the higheſt ſtrains of applauſe. Indeed, the few pieces in Engliſh are exquiſite, particularly "Man was made to mourn." A plaintive tenderneſs and an unaffected ſimplicity, are the traits for which the Caledonian bard was chiefly diſtinguiſhed. Peace be to his memory!

GENERAL REVIEW *of* POLITICS,

For May, 1801.

FRANCE.

An Adjutant from the Firſt Conſul arrived at Dunkirk about the middle of May, with orders to haſten the equipment of the veſſels in that port, ſuppoſed to be deſtined for a deſcent on England. There are encamped between Dunkirk and Nieuport a body of 10,000 men, who are to embark in veſſels which are arming in thoſe ports. The flotilla which is preparing at Dunkirk, is to conſiſt of four frigates, each mounting 44 guns, a number

number of corvettes, ſloops, and brigs, and of ſix flat-bottomed and gun-boats. Theſe and other veſſels were built three years ago, when there was an intention of effecting a deſcent on England, and are of a new conſtruction. At one of the extremities there is a bridge, which can be lowered or raiſed at pleaſure, and which is to ſerve to facilitate the debarkation of the troops when they approach near the coaſt. There are 170 flat gun-veſſels at St. Maloes, which have been lying there two years, built on the plan of La Bomparde, taken ſome time ſince, and brought into Plymouth. They can carry 160 troops, row 60 oars, and are flat-bottomed to run plump aſhore.

Intelligence has been received from Paris, dated May 13, ſtating that a circular letter has been ſent to the Magiſtrates of the interior to uſe all diligence in taking up the ſeamen who may have fled from the ſea-port towns, as the contemplated invaſion of England at all points, can only be effected by the help of ſeamen.

Intelligence has arrived at Paris, of the advanced-guard of the French army having entered Spain, on its march againſt Portugal.

The new Swiſs conſtitution is arranged. It is aſſerted to be the ſame as that which the Helvetic Council communicated ſome time ago to the French Government; it reſembles, in ſome meaſure, the ancient conſtitution. There are to be fifteen independent cantons, and a diet of two hundred and ten members to make general laws, and to be the bond of union between the cantons. The Executive Government, to be in the hands of ſeven Avoyers, to be named by the diet, and to reſide at Bern.

The plan of indemnities has, it is ſaid, been definitively ſettled by the Emperor. The ſecularizations are ſaid to be very few. The Diet at Ratiſbon have given the Emperor of Germany full powers to take upon himſelf the taſk of arranging all indemnities; a meaſure that has given much offence to the King of Pruſſia, who, in conſequence, is making great military movements, and ſeems to threaten hoſtilities againſt Auſtria.

EGYPT.

By the intelligence received at different times by Government it appears that the original intention of Sir Ralph Abercromby was not to have commenced the operations of the Britiſh army in Egypt, on the ſide of Alexandria, but circumſtances induced him to change his opinion. He was much longer delayed on the coaſt of Aſia Minor than he had at firſt reaſon to apprehend; and he was ultimately obliged to ſail from Marmorice, in a very imperfect ſtate of preparation. He was fully ſenſible of the exertions of his Majeſty's Ambaſſador at the Ottoman Porte, as well as of the Quarter-Maſter-General and other officers, who were ſent forward to provide for the neceſſities of the army.

His delays originated from other cauſes. The moment that it became practicable to ſail with ſo large a fleet, Lord Keith put to ſea; he left Marmorice on the 22d of February, and came in ſight of Alexandria on the 1ſt of March. On the 2d, the fleet anchored in Aboukir Bay. Until the 7th the ſea ran high, and no diſembarkation could be effected; on that day every arrangement was completed, and on the 8th, the troops forming the firſt diviſion, the brigade of guards under the Hon. Major-General Ludlow, and part of the firſt brigade under the command of Major-General Coote, got into the boats early in the morning; they had, in general, from five to ſix miles to row, and did not arrive at the point of land till ten o'clock. The front of the diſembarkation was narrow, and a hill, which commanded the whole, ſeemed almoſt inacceſſible. The French were fully aware of the intention, were in force, and the Britiſh diſpatches ſay, had every advantage on their ſide. The troops, however, notwithſtanding their being expoſed to a very ſevere cannonade; and under the fire of grape-ſhot, made good their landing, aſcending the hill with an intrepidity, ſcarcely to be paralleled, and forced the French to retire, leaving behind them ſeven pieces of artillery and a number of horſes. The troops that aſcended the hill, were the 23d regiment and the four flank companies of the 40th, under the command of Colonel Spencer. The troops in general loſt not a moment in remedying any little diſorder which became unavoidable in a landing under ſuch circumſtances. The diſembarkation of the army continued on that and the following day. The troops which landed on the 8th, advanced three miles the ſame day; and on the 12th, the whole army moved forward, and came within ſight of the French, who were formed on an advantageous ridge, with their left to the canal of Alexandria, and their right towards the ſea.

It was determined to attack them on the morning of the 13th, and in conſequence the army marched in two lines by the left, with an intention to turn their right flank.

The troops had not been long in motion before the French deſcended from the heights on which they were formed, and attacked the leading brigades of both lines, which were commanded by Major-General Cradock and Major-General the Earl of Cavan. The 90th regiment formed the advanced guard of the front line, and the 92d that of the ſecond; both battalions ſuffered conſiderably. Major-General Cradock immediately formed his brigade to meet the attack made by the French; and the troops changed their poſition with a quickneſs and preciſion which did them the greateſt honour. The remainder of the army followed ſo good an example, and were immediately in a poſition not only to face but repel the French. It was intended to have attacked them in this their laſt poſition; for which purpoſe, the reſerve under the command of Major-General

Moore

Moore, and the troops under the command of Major-General Hutchinſon, marched to the left, acroſs a part of the Lake Mareotis, with a view to attack the French in both flanks; but on reconnoitering their poſition, and not being prepared to occupy it after it ſhould be carried, prudence require that the troops ſhould not be expoſed to a certain loſs, when the extent of the advantage could not be aſcertained. They were therefore withdrawn, and then occupied a poſition with their right to the ſea, and their left to the canal of Alexandria and Lake Mareotis, about a league from the town of Alexandria. We are ſorry to find that the ſucceſſes obtained have been purchaſed at a very dear rate; no fewer being killed in both actions than 10 officers, 10 ſerjeants, and 237 privates; total 257. Wounded, 92 officers, 95 ſerjeants, 12 drummers, and 1396 privates; total 1595: amounting in the whole to 1888, in killed, wounded, and miſſing. Seamen killed, wounded, and miſſing, 132.

By comparing the accounts publiſhed in the Moniteur with our own, we find that the French were at this time headed by General Lanuſſe, who arrived at Alexandria a few days before, with 2000 additional troops of the line, and 400 horſe. In conſequence of this augmentation, the forces of the French actually engaged in the attack on the 13th, amounted to about 4600; the attack was commenced by Lanuſſe, although the whole body of the Britiſh army, not leſs than 16,000 men were oppoſed to him. After the action of the 13th, Menou, the French Commander in Chief, arrived at Alexandria with the main body of his army; the preciſe number of which, however, added to thoſe already at Alexandria, the official account does not particularly ſpecify.

On the 21ſt of March, was fought with a diviſion of this army, about four miles from Alexandria, a memorable battle, which commenced about an hour before day-light by a falſe attack on the left of the Britiſh army, under Major-General Cradock, where the French were repulſed. The moſt vigorous efforts of the French, were, however, directed to the right of the Engliſh army, which they uſed every effort to turn. The attack on that point begun with great impetuoſity by the French infantry, ſuſtained by a ſtrong body of cavalry, who charged in column. The conteſt was unuſually obſtinate; the French were twice repulſed, and their cavalry were repeatedly mixed with the Engliſh infantry. The French at length retired.

While this was paſſing on the right, the French attempted to penetrate the centre of the Britiſh army with a column of infantry, who were alſo repulſed, and obliged to retreat. They puſhed forward, however, a corps of light troops, ſupported by a body of infantry and cavalry, to keep the left of the Engliſh army in check, which certainly was, at that time, the weakeſt of the Engliſh line. The Engliſh took about two hundred priſoners

ſoners (not wounded); but it was impoſſible to purſue their victory, on account of their inferiority in cavalry, and becauſe the French had lined the oppoſite hills with cannon, under which they retired.

The Engliſh have ſuſtained an irreparable loſs in the perſon of their Commander in Chief, Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who was mortally wounded in the action, and died on the 28th of March. Major-General Moore was alſo wounded, though not dangerouſly.

The loſs of the French was vaguely calculated by the Engliſh General, at three thouſand killed, wounded, and taken priſoners. General Roize, who commanded the cavalry, which ſuffered conſiderably, was killed in the field. Generals Lanuſſe and Bodet are ſince dead of their wounds. The total of the killed among the Engliſh, amounts to 10 officers, 9 ſerjeants, 224 rank and file; of the wounded, 60 officers, 48 ſerjeants, 3 drummers, 1082 rank and file; and the miſſing, 3 officers, 1 ſerjeant, 28 rank and file. Taken one ſtand of colours and two field-pieces.

We do not know the exact number of the French troops in Egypt, and much leſs the number of the diviſion engaged in this battle. The Moniteur, in the beginning of May, calculated the whole of their force in Egypt at not leſs than 13,000, previous to the battle of the 21ſt of March, independently of the natives who have joined them. Of the nature or extent of our advantages, we can therefore form no adequate idea at preſent.

DENMARK.

After the armiſtice with this power mentioned in our laſt account of political affairs, Sir Hyde Parker entered the Baltic with his armament, and was proceeding towards Sweden, having reached the heights of Carlſcrone, when he received, by a flag of truce, a note from the Ruſſian Miniſter, in the name of the Emperor Alexander, deſiring that a ſuſpenſion of hoſtilities might take place till a definitive arrangement could be made, which might put an end to the differences ſubſiſting between Great Britain and the northern powers.

In conſequence of this, Sir Hyde then returned with his fleet to Copenhagen Roads. Whether on this account, or what other, we know not, but Sir Hyde was ſoon after called home, and the chief command of the fleet veſted in Lord Nelſon, who has ſince quitted that ſtation, again entered the Baltic, and was on the 19th inſtant off the Swediſh iſland of Bornholm, where, long ere this, he muſt have been joined by Admiral Totty with a reinforcement of five ſail of the line, &c. His Lordſhip's object, in this movement, is ſuppoſed to be, to prevent any junction that might be attempted between the Ruſſian and Swediſh fleets; as a declaration has been publiſhed by the Ruſſian Miniſter Count

Pahlen, intimating the reſolution of the Emperor Alexander to adhere to the principle of the neutral convention, and to act in conjunction with his allies in whatever may concern their common intereſts; but declaring, at the ſame time, his anxious wiſh to bring the preſent diſpute to an amicable adjuſtment. To promote this deſirable object, the Britiſh Cabinet has ſent over Lord St. Helen's, who arrived at Copenagen on the 15th inſtant, had conferences immediately with the Daniſh Miniſter and the Ruſſian Envoy there, and on the 17th purſued his voyage to Peterſburgh.

As ſoon as the Britiſh Government found that hoſtilities with the northern powers were unavoidable, it diſpatched a force againſt their colonial poſſeſſions, the conſequence of which was, the reduction, with very little loſs on our ſide, of the iſlands of Santa Cruz, St. Thomas, and St. John, the property of Denmark; St. Bartholomew, belonging to Sweden; and St. Martin, jointly poſſeſſed by the French and Dutch.

RUSSIA

The Emperor of this extenſive country commenced his reign by iſſuing decrees well calculated to conciliate the affections of his ſubjects; and though he has not removed the embargo from Britiſh veſſels, he has recalled the Engliſh ſailors from the interior of his empire, and reſtored them to their reſpective ſhips. He has relinquiſhed his claim to Malta; but nevertheleſs wiſhes to be elected Grand Maſter of that iſland, by the free ſuffrages of the Knights of the order of St. John of Jeruſalem.

Pleaſing Report of the State of Agriculture for the Month of May, 1801.

THE ſtate of the atmoſphere, from the frequent alternations of mild warm rains and fine ſunny weather, has been particularly ſuited to the purpoſes of vegetation, conſequently, moſt of the grain crops in almoſt all the arable diſtricts of the kingdom, have conſiderably recovered from the effects of the too great heat and dryneſs which occurred in the beginning.

The wheat crops, taken as a whole, we believe, never in any ſeaſon looked better, more promiſing, or were in larger quantity. The oats and barleys, in general, alſo look remarkably well.

Such crops of potatoes as were put into the ground early, are unuſually forward, ſo as to promiſe a ſupply of food ſooner than in ordinary years.

The hay and graſs lands, in general, have come forward with great rapidity ſince the rains. The artificial or ſown graſſes, have likewiſe the moſt promiſing appearance.

Grain

Grain of all kinds is on the decline in price, we believe, in every diſtrict of the kingdom. Return of wheat in Mark-lane, from the 11th to the 16th of May:—Total, 23,902 quarters; average 91s. 4d.—9s. 5½d. lower than laſt return:——Return of flour, from May 9, to May 15:—Total 12,693 ſacks; average, 89s. 6¼d.—10s. lower than the laſt return.

Cattle. Fat ſtock is ſomewhat lower, but lean cattle ſell at good prices. At Smithfield, beef ſells from 4s. 4d. to 5s. 6d.; mutton from 4s. 8d. to 5s. 4d.; veal from 5s to 6s. 4d.; pork from 5s. 4d. to 6s.; and lamb from 5s. 8d. to 7s.—In Newgate, and Leadenhall-market, beef from 3s. 8d. to 5s.; mutton from 4s. 4d. to 5s.; veal from 4s. to 6s.; pork from 5s. 4d. to 6s.; and lamb from 5s. to 6s. 8d.

Horſes are on the riſe, eſpecially thoſe of the better kinds.

In the cyder diſtricts, there has been an unuſualy luxuriant bluſſom on the apple and pear trees, and they have in general ſet well; therefore ſhould no blight happen, an abundant crop of theſe fruits may be expected.

The hop vines appear ſtrong and healthy in moſt of the ſouthern parts of the iſland where they are cultivated.

Inſtances of Ancient and Modern Generoſity.

SCIPIO Africanus the younger, being adopted by his uncle, ſucceeded to his large eſtate; he was to have paid his ſiſters their portions, at three diſtant periods, but diſcharged them immediately, making them many rich preſents; he then gave up to his brother his right to half of his father's eſtate, that their poſſeſſions might be equal. Theſe were truly heroic actions, and contribute more to the real honour of Scipio than the deſtruction of Carthage.

The father of T. R. dying inteſtate, he was by law intitled to his whole eſtate, which conſiſted of three copyhold tenements; he gave each of his two brothers one, with ſuitable portions to his ſiſters. Was not this plain countryman animated with the ſame generoſity of heart, and fraternal tenderneſs to his family, as the ſo much and juſtly celebrated Scipio?

A REFLECTION.

IN the evening of life it will be peculiarly pleaſing to recollect, that the tenor of our conduct has been void of malignity, happy in an opportunity of doing good, and always deſirous of diſcharging the duties incumbent on us as members of ſociety.

OBSERVATIONS *on* MAN.

By the late ROBERT BURNS.

AFTER all that has been ſaid on the other ſide of the queſtion, MAN is by no means a happy creature. I do not ſpeak of the ſelected few, favoured by partial Heaven, whoſe ſouls are tuned to gladneſs amid richneſs and honours, and prudence and wiſdom. I ſpeak of the neglected many, whoſe nerves, whoſe ſinews, whoſe days are ſold to the minions of fortune. It is this way of thinking, it is theſe melancholy truths, that made religion precious to the poor miſerable children of men. If it is a mere phantom, exiſting only in the heated imagination of enthuſiaſm—

" What truth on earth ſo precious as the lie!"

My idle reaſoning ſometimes make me a little ſceptical, but the neceſſities of my heart always give the cold philoſophizings the lie. Who looks for the heart weaned from earth—the ſoul affianced to her God—the correſpondence fixed with Heaven—the pious ſupplication and the devout thankſgivings, conſtant as the viciſſitude of even and morn,—who thinks to meet theſe in the Court, the Palace, in the glare of public life! No; to find them in their precious importance and divine efficacy, we muſt ſearch among the obſcure receſſes of diſappointment, affliction, poverty, and diſtreſs.

Anſwer, by H. Humphreys, of Exeter, to J. Bulgin's Enigma, inſerted March 23.

I Have with ſtrict inveſtigation found,
That IRON will your lines expound.

*** We have received the like anſwer from Oedipus, of Plymouth Dock; W. Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton; J. Ninnis, of St. Agnes; J. R. Toulmin; and G. Coulman, of Broadhempſton.

Anſwer, by R. Thomas, of Exeter, to P. Coe's Rebus, inſerted March 30.

BRAVE ARCH-DUKE CHARLES ſhines on the liſt of fame;
Britons rouſe up, and praiſe the hero's name;
Conſpicuouſly his fortitude has ſhone,
And victory owns him as her darling ſon.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from H. Humphreys, John Smith, L. H. T. Whicker, W. Harris jun. and J. Squance, of Exeter; J. T. of Tiverton; J. Whittle, of Upway; and Philom. of Teingmouth.

A CHARADE, *by J. Whittle, of Upway.*

WHAT numbers on my firſt have bled,
Whom treaſons dire to ſlaughter led;
Without my ſecond all muſt die,
The fiſh that ſwims, the birds that fly:
Divine aright, and we ſhall ſee,
What, reader! thou, perhaps, may'ſt be.

A REBUS, *by W. England, of Lyme.*

YE ſapient few! a ſong you firſt will find;
An animal you next will bring to mind;
A ſervant now, ye gents. you muſt unfold;
A rural deity muſt next be told;
A certain game you now to light will bring;
From Scripture's volume take a pious King;
The ſon of Iphiclus you now muſt ſhew;
Epaphus' daughter next you'll bring to view;
And now, kind gents. you laſtly will declare,
One of the greateſt bleſſings we can ſhare:
Th' initials join'd, ye ſprightly wits of fame,
Will ſoon explain an Engliſh warrior's name;
His valorous deeds deſerve the greateſt praiſe,
While in the ſilent grave his body lays.

A REBUS, *by Juvenis.*

A Noiſome reptile, youths, diſcloſe,
Whoſe eye with ſparkling luſtre glows;
A Grecian chief, from Thetis ſprung,
Whoſe ſullen anger Homer ſung;
The man whom fam'd Calypſo's train
Attun'd their breath to lure in vain;
The god who rules the roaring deep,
And bids the boiſt'rous billows ſleep;
Who, zealous for his fav'rite's fame,
Swells with conqueſt Britain's name;
A ſavage beaſt that haunts the wood,
And moſt delights in human blood;
The wretch who groan'd beneath his pangs,
Torn by th' avenging harpies' fangs;
And he, the ſage, on whoſe melliſluous tongue
Surrounding chiefs in rapt attention hung;

The initials join'd you'll quickly ſee
A town of great celebrity.

POETRY.

A BALLAD.

REMOTE from town, in humble cot,
A widow'd matron dwelt;
Each ſylvan beauty grac'd the ſpot,
And ſweet content ſhe felt.

Save when alone ſhe ponder'd o'er
The horrid ſcenes of war;
Save when her huſband ſtain'd with gore,
In mem'ry's glaſs ſhe ſaw.

For he a ſoldier was and brave,
His breaſt felt martial fire;
But ſavage carnage none will ſave,
Nor till o'er-gorg'd retire.

To ſtorm a fort his duty led,
The conteſt was ſevere;
Foremoſt he climb'd—he fought—he bled,
And laurels grac'd his bier.

Thus fall our youths in glory's cauſe—
Ah! glory leads to woe!
Why does not mad ambition pauſe,
Ere blood he bids to flow?

Why pitileſs does he deſtroy
Fair nature's blooming face?
Why bleſt a thouſand parents joy,
By murdering of their race?

Theſe penſive thoughts from pity's ſont
Forc'd chryſtal tears to flow;
But free her lot from griping want,
She knew no laſting woe.

Thus from o'er-ſhadowing clouds on high
Oft pours the genial ſhow'r;
Til Sol anon illumes the ſky,
And joys the paſſing hour.

One daughter was her age's pride,
A duteous, lovely maid;
For grandeur's ſtate ſhe never ſigh'd,
Nor envied its parade.

The gaudy dreſs that others prize,
Devoid of charms ſhe ſaw;
And thoughtleſs pleaſure to her eyes,
Oft broke ſtrict virtue's law.

Yet not unconſcious was her mind,
To recreation true;
In rural walk, or dance ſhe join'd,
With a ſelected few.

Each act her native ſenſe diſplay'd,
And gain'd of all eſteem;
To aged friends ſhe reverence paid,
And was their fondeſt theme.

No ſhowy gifts did ſhe poſſeſs,
No fine endowments rare;
Her ſkilful choice would e'er ſuppreſs
Accompliſhments that glare.

So lowly, yet ſo ſweet is ſeen,
The fair enamell'd field;
So flows the noiſeleſs brook ſerene,
Which tranquil pleaſures yield.

The richeſt peaſants vainly ſtrove
Fair Emma's heart to gain;
But none excited tender love,
Nor gave her boſom pain.

To duty wedded, nought could change,
Her calm unwav'ring mind;
Or ſoft perſuaſive praiſe derange
A ſyſtem ſo refin'd.

Oft in thoſe hours to friendſhip dear,
When all alone they ſtray'd;
Would ſhe impart her thoughts ſincere,
And thus reveal'd the maid:

" Could I ſo kind a parent leave,
" Enfeebled thus with age,
" Her breaſt with anxious cares would
" heave,
" That no one could aſſuage.

" My helpleſs years ſhe nurs'd with
" care,
" To her, and Heav'n, I owe
" Deep gratitude for proſpects fair,
" And health's warm-tinted glow.

" Do we not view yon aged tree,
" With ivy boughs intwin'd?
" So firm ſhall my affections be,
" So ſtrongly fix'd my mind.

" While life's dull embers can be
" fann'd,
" A little warmth t'impart,
" Be mine the taſk with pious hand,
" To ſoothe her aged heart.

" To love's ſoft tale I'll not attend,
" Twould haply wound my breaſt;
" I love my mother dear, and friend,
" And am by them careſt."

Thus ſpoke the maid in friendſhip's ear,
And friendſhip ſmil'd aſſent;

And thus she lives each circling year,
With single life content.

O filial love! how sweet thy pow'r!
How permanent thy joy!
All other passions give each hour
A portion of alloy.

ELIZA.

For the Weekly Entertainer.

SONG.

TO Chloe kind, and Chloe fair,
With sparkling eye and flowing hair;
Tune the harp, and raise the song,
Such as to beauty doth belong!

Let the strain be sweet and clear;
Such as thro' the listening ear,
In well-according harmony
May with the tranced soul agree!

She is pleasure's blooming queen,
In the morn more fresh her mien,
When awaken'd from repose,
Than the summer's dewy rose:
In the ev'ning brighter far
Than the ocean-bathed star.

And when night, the friend of love,
Bids the silent hour improve,
To the ravish'd senses she
Gives joy, and bliss, and ecstacy.

MORNING.

By CHARLOTTE KING.

SEE light the hills adorning,
As shrill the cock proclaims;
And brightly gleams the morning,
Wide breaking o'er the plains.

See ev'ry star retiring,
And ev'ry dew exhale;
See morn with joy inspiring
The songsters of the vale.

Behold yon cloud, how glorious!
That captive holds the sun,
Which now breaks forth victorious,
His radiant course to run.

Begone, each little fairy,
And each fantastic dream,
With ev'ry spirit airy
That haunts the desert green.

EVENING.—*By the* SAME.

NOW Sol, behind the mountain,
Withdraws his golden rays,
That, lingering on the fountain,
Displays a liquid blaze.

Now gently plays the zephyr,
And curbs the languid stream;
Now lightly bounds the heifer,
Beneath the evening beam.

With curious colours tainted,
The slippery rocks are seen,
By nature's soft hand painted,
In azure, red, and green.

Yon mountain top, aspiring,
To reach bright heaven tries;
A purple tint acquiring
From evening's vivid skies.

And now his toil suspending,
The labourer quits the field;
And, lo! the dews descending,
Their sweetest fragrance yield.

The fleecy lambs reclining
Supine on yonder sleep;
His sportive care resigning,
The shepherd wrapt in sleep.

Now to the seas extending,
Sol throws his sinking rays,
While o'er the ocean bending
The drooping willow plays.

The glowing prospect fading
As deepening dusk succeeds,
And darkness slow invading,
It gradually recedes.

ABSENCE.—*A Farewell Ode.*

WHERE grac'd with many a classic spoil
Cam rolls his reverend stream along,
I hasle to urge the learned toil
That sternly chides my love-lorn song:
Ah me! too mindful of the days
Illum'd by passion's orient rays,
When peace, and cheerfulness, and health
Enrich'd me with the best of wealth.

Ah fair delights! that o'er my soul
On mem'ry's wing, like shadows, fly!
Ah flowers! which joy from Eden stole
While innocence stood smiling by!
But cease, fond heart, this useless moan
Those hours on rapid pinions flown
Shall yet return, by absence crown'd,
And scatter livelier roses round.

The sun, who ne'er remits his fires
On heedless eyes may pour the day:
The moon, that oft from heav'n retires
Endears her renovated ray.
What tho' she leave the sky unblest
To mourn awhile in murky vest?
When she relumes her lovely light,
We bless the wanderer of the night.